

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action objections were raised with respect to the Abstract, Page 22, and Page 52 of the Specification. Accordingly, each of those objections was addressed and remedied by means of the foregoing amendment.

With regard to the claims, Applicants note that Claims 21, 23, 24, 32, 34, and 35 were acknowledged as being patentable if amended to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depended. By this response those claims were so amended, wherein each of those claims is now presented in independent form. Accordingly, amended Claims 21, 23, and 24 now include all of the limitations of cancelled claim 14, from which they originally depended, and similarly, Claims 32, 34, and 35 include all of the limitations of cancelled Claim 25.

All of the rejected claims have been cancelled, with the exception of Claims 1-4 and 6 which have been amended.

In this regard, independent Claim 1 was amended to require that the bonding portion, where adjacent individual fiber plates are joined together at lateral faces thereof, defines a radiation intercepting member. This concept was previously referred to in now-cancelled Claim 5. In the Office Action, Claim 5 was rejected as anticipated by the Kusuyama reference, wherein the use of a radiation intercepting bond is alleged in the Office Action to be disclosed at Page 4, lines 10-16 of Kusuyama. On the contrary, however, Applicants submit that no such disclosure exists in Kusuyama. Instead, that reference merely discloses that an adhesive is used providing a light shielding member having a light transmitting ratio of less than 50%. Particularly, there is no disclosure that the adhesive provides a shield for radiation. Accordingly, it is believed that amended Claim 1 is patentably distinct over the Kusuyama reference, along with Claims 2-4 which depend from Claim 1.

Claim 6 has also been amended to independent form to include all of the limitations of original Claim 1 from which it depended. It is noted that Claim 6 was rejected as being obvious in view of a hypothetical combination of the Kusuyama and Sayag references. Applicants note, however, that Sayag discloses a mosaic CCD array for minimizing "a dead space"; i.e., a non-image forming area, wherein at a connection between SFOCCD's the assemblies 18 are adjacent on a microminiature basis. Accordingly, the respective SFOCCD assemblies 18 are provided with preamps 40 and A/D converters 42, and they are mounted on a printed circuit board 21, wherein they are "displaced laterally by approximately 1mm to 2mm as indicated by the sloping edges 18d" (see Column 7, lines 8-9 of Sayag). Thus, the lateral faces are spaced apart, rather than bonded together as in Applicants' Claim 6.

Also, referring to Fig. 2 of Kusuyama, an optical member 22 is formed between fiber plates 12, 14, and 16, and CCD 20. Thus, Kusuyama does not refer to the deficiencies of Sayag as a rejecting reference, so that there would be no motivation to combine those references.

Finally, referring to Applicants' new independent Claim 58, the assertion is acknowledged at Page 4 of the Office Action that Kusuyama discloses, at Page 4, lines 17-25, that portions of the fiber plate are polished. However, that disclosure relates to a sequence wherein, after bonding a plurality of optical members, a periphery is polished, and Kusuyama does not disclose that the bonding surface between adjacent fiber plates is polished, as required in Claim 58.

For all of these various reasons it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims as now presented in this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. Cause", is written over a horizontal line.

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